

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Following the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated June 22, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Office to enter the enclosed amendments and consider the following remarks. All of the outstanding rejections and indications by the Office are addressed via this preliminary amendment, in which claims 1, 3-6 and 11-14 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-14 remain pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vandergrift in view of at least one of Lazarus or Hagood (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,775,715, 5,857,694, and 5,869,189, respectively).

Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended claims are patentable over the combinations of references cited. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites "two transducer elements ... electrically connected to the transducer elements by way of a Y-shaped flex circuit, the circuit including at least one storage element configured to store power extracted from the two transducer elements." The cited references do not disclose or suggest at least this limitation, and thus claim 1 and its dependent claims now recite patentable subject matter. Similarly, independent claims 6 and 11 have been amended to recite "two transducer elements [electrically connected to the circuit] by way of a Y-shaped flex circuit; and at least one storage element configured to store power extracted from the two transducer elements" and "two transducer elements [electrically connected to the circuit] by way of a Y-shaped flex circuit; and a storage element

configured to store power extracted from the two transducer elements," respectively.

For similar reasons, then, it is further submitted that independent claims 6 and 11 are likewise patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION


By virtue of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this paper is fully responsive to all outstanding rejection by the Office. Applicants submit that the pending claims, as amended, are allowable over the references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of the amended application, and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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